

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:MTANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 085749

EXDIS

EMBASSY PLEASE PASS SECRETARY SIMON FOR INFORMATION

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC FROM SAIGON 15 APR 75:

QUOTE S E C R E T SAIGON 5000

EXDIS

PASS TREASURY, FRB AND NSC

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: EFIN, SW, VS, US

SUBJECT: GVN GOLD HOLDINGS

1. ON APRIL 14 DPTY PRIMIN FOR ECONIMICS HAO AND GOV FOR NATIONAL BANK OF VIETNAM UYEN INFORMED MINECON AND USAID DIR OF GVN INTENTION TO SHIP 15 TONS OF GOLD REMAINING SAIGON TO THE BANK OF INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE FOR SAFEKEEPING AND READY AVAILABILITY FOR OVERNIGHT SALE IF NEEDED TO MEET FURTHER REQUIREMENTS. 5 TONS ARE REPORTED TO BE HELD AT BASEL.

2. GVN CONCERNED THAT UTMOST SECRECY SURROUND THIS OPERATION; HOWEVER, REUTERS DESPATCH HAS ALREADY PICKED UP INITIAL INQUIRIES IN SWITZERLAND CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION AND INSURANCE ARRANGE-

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MENTS. WE ARE ADVISING GVN TO SHIP TO FRB NY TO AVOID THE SWISS

CONNECTION AND THEN PUBLICLY TO ANNOUNCE THE MOVE IN PREPARATION FOR FUTURE ARMS AND MUNITIONS PURCHASES IF REQUIRED.

3. REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS SOONEST ON ANY PROBLEMS, IF ANY, OF FRB RECEIPT AND STORAGE AND YOUR ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON CONGRESS OF CURRENT RUMORS CONCERNING GOLD MOVEMENTS AND YOUR JUDGMENT OF THE EFFECT OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AS OUTLINED ABOVE TO SQUELCH SPECULATION.

4. ALTHOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY TOLD OF INTENTION TO MOVE GOLD TO BANK OF INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS IN SWITZERLAND, WE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF IT FOR SOME TIME THROUGH SOURCES AVAILABLE TO US IN US INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

5. THEREFORE, WE HOPE WASHINGTON WILL DO WHATEVER IT CAN TO HELP CORRECT SUCH STORIES AS THAT APPEARING IN THIS WEEK'S TIME MAGAZINE UNDER CAPTION "GILDED EXILE", ALLEGING PLOT TO MOVE "THIEU-LON NOL GOLD" TO SWITZERLAND. WE UNDERSTAND STORY HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY WIRE SERVICES AND WIDELY CARRIED. IT OBVIOUSLY WILL BE VERY DAMAGING ON THE HILL. MARTIN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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